**WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.**

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

*Purpose of checklist:*

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

*Instructions for applicants:*

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

*Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:*

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

**A. BACKGROUND**

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

**Adoption of revised Chapter 173-218 WAC Underground Injection Control Program and Chapter 173-216 State Waste Discharge Permit Program.**

2. Name of applicant: **Washington State Department of Ecology**

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

**Water Quality Program**
**Department of Ecology**
**P.O. Box 47600**
**Olympia, WA 98504-7600**

Contact: **Mary Shaleen-Hansen, (360) 407-6143**

4. Date checklist prepared: **May 26, 2005**

5. Agency requesting checklist: **Department of Ecology**

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

**The draft rules are expected to be filed with the State Code Reviser in July 2005.**

**7.** Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

**No.**

**8.** List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

- **Revised language for Chapter 173-218WAC Underground Injection Control Program.**
- **Small Business Economic Impact Analysis, for proposed Chapter 173-218 WAC – Underground Injection Control Program, Chapter 173-216 WAC – State Waste Discharge Permit Program**
- **Evaluation of Probable Benefits and Costs for Proposed Chapter 173-218 WAC Underground Injection Control Program and Chapter 173-216 WAC State,**

**Draft Implementation Plan for the Revisions to Chapter 173-218 WAC, Underground Injection Control Program and Chapter 173-216 WAC, State Waste Discharge Program**

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

**Not applicable**.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

**The state's proposal for Chapter 173-218 WAC will need to be approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency to meet the Safe Drinking Water Act. Additionally, all of the proposals must adhere to the requirements for establishing a rule under Chapter 34.05 RCW, the state's Administrative Procedures Act, as well as be evaluated under Chapter 19.85 RCW, the state Regulatory Fairness Act, for the need to develop a Small Business Economic Impact Statement.**

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects

of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

**The purpose of the UIC program is to protect ground water by regulating discharges to UIC wells.**

- **The following represents the changes being considered for possible adoption within Chapter 173-216 WAC State Waste Discharge Permit Program.**

  **The current state waste permit program regulation does not apply to injection of fluids through UIC wells regulated by Chapter 173-218. The proposal would allow the state waste discharge permit program regulations to apply to UIC wells.**

- **The proposal for Chapter 173-218 WAC Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program.**

  1. **Add the federal UIC program modifications to the state UIC rule, changes include definitions (i.e., "UIC well") and well types. Allow fluids from municipal, commercial, industrial and residential sources, and storm water into UIC wells if the requirements of the UIC rule are met. Describe what is needed to operate a Class V UIC well without a permit (rule authorization).**

  **(2) Requiring owners of existing UIC wells to review the current use of their UIC wells and determine if they are protective of ground water quality. For owners of stormwater wells, this includes identifying high risk wells and retrofitting them if necessary.**

  **(3) Explain the requirements for closing a UIC well and list what types of UIC wells will automatically meet the ground water protection requirement of the rule.**

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

**The proposed rule applies statewide**.

**B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other . . . .

**Not applicable**

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

**Not applicable**

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

**Not applicable.**

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

**Not applicable**.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

**Not applicable**.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

**Not applicable.**

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g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

**Not applicable**.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

**Not applicable**.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial, wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

**Not applicable**.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

**No**.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

**None.**

3. Water

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

**UIC wells may be used in the vicinity of surface water, but the proposal includes meeting the requirements of local ordinances that could include Shoreline Management Act chapter 90.58 RCW and local Shoreline Master Plans if applicable.**

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

**Not applicable.**

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

**Not applicable**.

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4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

**No**.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

**Not applicable**

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

**Not applicable**

b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

**UIC wells are used to discharge fluids to the subsurface (below ground). Examples of a UIC well are; drywell, french drain, and infiltration trench with perforated pipe that manage stormwater along parking lots, roads and roofs; and septic systems used at businesses and serve more than twenty people per day. They are also used to recharge aquifers, to return the water from a heat pump or cooling water system, and to help remediate clean up sites; but all of these examples must be protective of ground water quality.**

**Chapter 173-218 WAC applies statewide and therefore the quantities of water that will be discharged under this rule are unknown.**

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

**Some examples of UIC wells that receive a waste fluid are septic systems that serve more than twenty people per day and wells used to manage stormwater. Stormwater can be considered a waste fluid depending on the land use the stormwater flows over. Septic systems receive sanitary waste from multiple residences or nonresidential establishments. They are generally used in unsewered areas of the state if the subsurface is conducive to infiltration.**

**Pierce, Clark, and Spokane Counties and also the Tri Cities area predominantly use UIC wells to manage stormwater. UIC wells are used in other parts of the state but are not as extensive according to the wells registered with the UIC program.**

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including stormwater) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

**Fluids flow into a UIC well from the ground surface and then flow downward into the subsurface (underground).**

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

**The UIC rule is intended to prevent wastes from entering ground water.**

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

**The UIC rule proposal includes providing all known available, reasonable methods of prevention, control and treatment (AKART) for discharges to UIC wells.**

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

**Not applicable. This is a statewide regulation.**

——— deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

——— evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

——— shrubs

——— grass

——— pasture

——— crop or grain

——— wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

——— water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

——— other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

**Not applicable**.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

**Not applicable.**

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

**Not applicable.**

5. Animals

**Not applicable. This is a statewide regulation.**

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

**Not applicable.**

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c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

**Not applicable**.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

**Not applicable.**

6**.** Energy and natural resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

**Not applicable.**

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

**Not applicable.**

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

**Not applicable.**

7. Environmental health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

**The purpose of this regulation is to reduce and control any contaminants from entering ground water by regulating the discharges to UIC wells.**

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

**Not applicable**.

**2**) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

**The UIC regulation proposal states that UIC well activities must meet the requirements of the Chapter 173-200 WAC Water Quality Standards for Ground Waters of the State of Washington. Best management practices for the site and also the UIC well design are included to protect ground water quality.**

b. **Noise**

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

**Not applicable.**

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2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

**Not applicable.**

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

**Not applicable.**

8. Land and shoreline use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

**Not applicable. This is a state wide regulation**

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

**Not applicable.**

c. Describe any structures on the site.

**Not applicable.**

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

**Not applicable.**

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

**Not applicable.**

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

**Not applicable.**

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?
**Not applicable.**

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.
**Not applicable.**

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?
**Not applicable.**

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?
**Not applicable.**

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:
**Not applicable**

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

**The UIC rule proposal includes meeting local and state ground water and shoreline protection plan requirements.**

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

**Not applicable.**

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

**Not applicable.**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

**Not applicable.**

10. **Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

**Not applicable.**

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

**Not applicable.**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

**Not applicable.**

11. Light and glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

**Not applicable.**

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

**Not applicable.**

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

**Not applicable.**

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

**Not applicable.**

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

**Not applicable.**

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

**Not applicable.**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

**Not applicable.**

13. **Historic and cultural preservation**

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

**Not applicable.**

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

**Not applicable. This proposal is state wide.**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

**Not applicable.**

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

**Not applicable.**

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

**Not applicable.**

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

**Not applicable.**

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

**Not applicable.**

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

**Not applicable.**

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

**Not applicable.**

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

**Not applicable.**

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

**Not applicable.**

15. Public services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

**Not applicable.**

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

**Not applicable.**

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

**Not applicable.**

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

**Not applicable.**

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: 

Date Submitted: July 6, 2005

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D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

**The UIC rule proposal should not increase discharges to water, emissions to air; production, storage or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise. UIC wells are already used statewide. The proposal better explains what types of discharges are allowed to UIC wells and how to protect ground water quality.**

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

**The rule requires owners/operators of UIC wells to use best management practices to prevent wastes from being discharged to the subsurface that would reach aquifers and degrade ground water quality.**

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

**Not applicable.**

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

**Not applicable.**

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

**The rule could discourage the use of UIC well for stormwater management. If stormwater is not infiltrated through a UIC well or other means, ground water recharge would be reduced and therefore impact ground water levels.**

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

**The implementation of best management practices that avoid or remove stormwater contamination allow the use of UIC wells for stormwater management while protecting ground water quality.**

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

   **No effects appear likely as a result of this proposal.**

   Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

   **None**

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

   **The rule should not restrict or encourage any particular land or shoreline uses.**

   Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

   **The rule reiterates that owners/operators of UIC wells must comply with local regulations, including any local shoreline master program.**

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

   Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

   **Not applicable**

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

   **No conflicts with other local, state, or federal laws or requirements are known or suspected. The existing rule is being updated to comply with state and federal environmental laws and regulations, particularly Chapter 90.48 RCW, and the Safe Drinking Water Act. The state UIC program regulation serves as the benchmark for determining if UIC wells are protective of ground water, and are used to set the minimum requirements for local control efforts. Local jurisdictions and other agencies may be able to establish more protective requirements without coming into conflict with the state regulation.**